

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02 /085 W

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P R 121508Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9530

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONGEN CAPETOWN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0056

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI, UR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER SORSA'S VISIT TO SOVIET UNION

REF: A) HELSINKI 47 (NOTAL) B) STOCKHOLM 92 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, JOINT COMMUNIQUE, AND WHAT SORSA HIMSELF TOLD CHARGE, FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR JANUARY 6-8 WENT SMOOTHLY. SORSA HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH GROMYKO AND, SEPARATELY IN HIS CAPACITY AS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) CHAIRMAN, CPSU INTERNATIONAL SECTION CHIEF PONOMAREV. DISCUSSIONS WITH GROMYKO CENTERED ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, AND ARMS CONTROL MATTERS. SORSA
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CONFIRMED THAT SOVIETS HAD INTRODUCED ANGOLA QUESTION

INTO DISCUSSIONS. NO NEW AGREEMENTS WERE CONCLUDED, NOR IS VISIT EXPECTED TO LEAD TO ANY NEW DEPARTURES IN FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY. ON PARTY LEVEL, SDP AND CPSU REACHED AGREEMENT ON PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES AND VISITS FOR 1976. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER KALEVI SORSA MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO SOVIET UNION JANUARY 6-8. VISIT WAS SCHEDULED ON SHORT NOTICE AND ONLY FIVE WEEKS AFTER SORSA HAD ASSUMED OFFICE IN PRESENT MIETTUNEN GOVERNMENT. SORSA HIMSELF TOLD CHARGE JANUARY 12 THAT VISIT CAME ABOUT AS UPGRADED SUBSTITUTE FOR PURELY PARTY TRIP THAT HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR EARLY DECEMBER WHICH HAD TO BE CANCELED WHEN NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED. SORSA TOOK CARE TO STRESS THAT VISIT NOT INDICATIVE OF ANY IMPORTANT PROBLEM IN FINNISH-SOVIET RELATIONS.

3. SORSA'S DISCUSSION WITH GROMYKO CENTERED ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, AND ARMS CONTROL MATTERS. SORSA TOLD CHARGE THAT ON BILATERAL SIDE ECONOMIC TALKS WERE MOST IMPORTANT, PARTICULARLY THOSE CONCERNING PLANNED-FOR 15-YEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN FINLAND AND USSR. SORSA SAID THAT FINLAND HAS IMPRESSION THAT USSR NOW GIVING MUCH MORE STRESS TO 15-YEAR PLANS AS OPPOSED TO MEDIUM-TERM 5-YEAR PLANS AND THAT ANY COUNTRY WANTING TO DEVELOP TRADE WITH USSR SHOULD GET PLUGGED INTO SOVIET LONG-TERM PLANNING. SORSA ADDED ON BASIS OF DISCUSSION WITH SOVIETS FINNS WERE ENCOURAGED ABOUT THEIR FUTURE ROLE IN KOSTAMUS PROJECT. DURING SORSA VISIT, FLAP AROSE IN FINNISH PRESS OVER POSSIBLE SLOWDOWN IN SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF FINNISH EXPORTS (SEE SEPTTEL).

4. CONCERNING CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, SORSA TOLD CHARGE THAT SOVIETS SEEMED TO BE IN EARLY STAGES OF CONSIDERING WAYS TO IMPLEMENT MULTILATERALLY PARTS OF CSCE FINAL ACT. SORSA ADDED THAT THOSE SPECIFIC FIELDS WHICH BREZHNEV HAD MENTIONED IN HIS SPEECH TO POLISH PARTY CONGRESS AS WORTHY OF SPECIAL MULTILATERAL

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EFFORTS (ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT OF POWER INDUSTRY, ETC.) DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED EVEN WITHIN SOVIET LEADERSHIP. SORSA HAD NO IDEA HOW SOVIETS ENVISIONED SUCH IMPLEMENTATION, WHETHER THROUGH ECE OR AD HOC. JOINT COMMUNIQUE DEALS WITH MATTER BY STATING THAT IN CONNECTION WITH CSCE IMPLEMENTATION THE TWO PARTIES "CONSIDERED ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THE TREATMENT OF COOPERATION QUESTIONS

BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE SPHERE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT AND ENERGY."

5. SINCE ARMS CONTROL/DISARMAMENT IS FIELD IN WHICH FINNS ARE INCREASINGLY ACTIVE AND FEEL THEY HAVE USEFUL ROLE TO PLAY, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT MOST IMPORTANT PART OF DISCUSSION ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS WAS ON DISARMAMENT. JOINT COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT BOTH PARTIES AGREED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF 30TH UNGA RESOLUTIONS ON PROHIBITION OF DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURE OF NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND NEW SYSTEMS OF SUCH WEAPONS AS WELL AS ON COMPLETE AND GENERAL PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS COULD MEAN A GREAT STEP TOWARDS GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT. COMMUNIQUE ALSO NOTED IMPORTANCE OF UNGA RESOLUTION CONCERNING COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF QUESTION OF NUCLEAR-WEAPONS-FREE ZONES, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF TIMELINESS OF FINLAND'S PROPOSALS FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN THE NORTH. SORSA TOLD CHARGE THAT SOVIETS WERE INTERESTED IN FINNISH IDEAS IN DISARMAMENT MATTERS AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION OF DISARMAMENT ISSUES IN NORTHERN EUROPE AND BALTIC AREA -- WITHOUT SPELLING OUT WHAT ISSUES WERE. SORSA ALSO SAID THAT SOVIETS HAD INFORMED FINNS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING SALT AND MBFR. HE SAID THAT SOVIETS MORE POSITIVE ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR PROGRESS IN SALT THAN MBFR (REF B) AND SEEMED TO EXPECT UPCOMING KISSINGER TALKS IN MOSCOW ON SALT TO BE DECISIVE. CONCERNING MBFR SORSA SAID SOVIETS TOLD HIM THESE TALKS WOULD TAKE TIME. SORSA ADDED, IN REPLY TO QUESTION, THAT HIS MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS ON MBFR HAD NOT BEEN DETAILED ENOUGH FOR SOVIETS TO HAVE GIVEN HIM HINT ON THEIR POSITION

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REGARDING WESTERN PROPOSAL TO REDUCE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE.

6 SORSA CONFIRMED TO CHARGE THAT IT WAS THE SOVIET WHO HAD INTRODUCED SUBJECT OF ANGOLA INTO DISCUSSIONS AND SAID THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN COMMUNIQUE BECAUSE FINNS HAD BEEN ABLE TO CARRY POINT THAT COMMUNIQUE SHOULD ONLY REFER TO QUESTIONS WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECTED BOTH PARTIES, LEAVING OUT OTHER MATTERS. SORSA ADDED THAT FINLAND AND USSR DO NOT NOW AGREE ON ANGOLA BECAUSE FINNISH BASIS FOR EXTENDING RECOGNITION DIFFERENT FROM SOVIET BASIS.

7. SORSA ALSO HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP), WITH

CPSU INTERNATIONAL SECTION CHIEF BORIS PONOMAREV.
AS A RESULT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, 1976 PROGRAM FOR
EXCHANGES AND VISITS BETWEEN SDP AND CPSU WAS AGREED
UPON.

8. COMMENT: ALL IN ALL SORSA'S OFFICIAL VISIT SEEMS
TO HAVE GONE SMOOTHLY. EVEN THROUGH NO NEW AGREEMENTS
WERE CONCLUDED, SOME PROGRESS WAS APPARENTLY MADE ON
SUCH QUESTIONS AS THE KOSTAMUS PROJECT. GROMYKO'S
SPEECH AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE AGAIN PUBLICLY
CONFIRMED THE GOOD RELATIONS AND ABSENCE OF PROBLEMS
BETWEEN FINLAND AND USSR, IN ITSELF IMPORTANT TO THE
FINNS. SORSA'S PERSONAL STATURE WAS ALSO ENHANCED
SINCE THIS WAS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR OF A
FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER SINCE 1969. VISIT IS NOT,
HOWEVER, EXPECTED TO LEAD TO ANY NEW DEPARTURES IN
FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY.
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